

**Dover**

**Daily**

**DEVOTIONALS**

**Growing  
Together in  
God's Word!**

In this week's Lenten sermon, we focused on Psalm 95, emphasizing worship and thanksgiving as essential components of our spiritual journey, especially during Lent. This Psalm not only calls us to acknowledge God's majesty and creative power but also to reflect on the profound humility and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our rock of salvation. Through the imagery of God as our rock, we're reminded of the enduring strength and refuge God provides, paralleling the steadfast foundation Christ offers to those who build their lives on His teachings. The sermon highlighted the miraculous provision of water from the rock in Exodus as a precursor to the living water Christ offers through His sacrifice, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's sustaining presence in our lives. We were encouraged to approach God with hearts of gratitude, fully embracing the gift of salvation made possible through Christ's crucifixion. The sermon concluded with a warning against hardening our hearts, urging us to remain receptive to God's grace and to respond to His call with obedience and faith. The closing prayer focused on asking for strength and grace to keep our hearts soft towards God's guidance, ensuring our Lenten journey leads us closer to Him, culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter.

## Monday: The Privilege of Praising God

Read: Psalm 95:1-3

### Devotional:

Psalm 95:1-3 calls us to celebrate and worship God with joy and enthusiasm. We are asked to sing and praise the Lord, acknowledge His authority as King, and marvel at His creation. Worship is not a passive activity, but an active engagement that aligns our hearts with God's heart. Through worship, we recognize God's greatness and our dependency on Him as our Savior, King, and Creator. The psalmist reminds us of the importance of coming before God with thanksgiving and praise, for He is "the great God, the great King above all gods."

Moreover, Psalm 95 teaches us about the significance of our response to God's Word in true worship. To encounter God's grace, we must open our hearts in gladness and accept the gift offered through Jesus Christ. We can either make that choice or harden our hearts like the Israelites, testing God's patience despite witnessing His miraculous deeds. The decision we make will determine whether we live under God's wrath or enter into His rest. The psalm cautions us against the deceit of neutrality in our spiritual

journey. Worship requires a decision, a commitment to trust and follow Christ, the Good Shepherd who sacrifices for His flock.

This call to worship is both a privilege and a responsibility that we should not take lightly. It beckons us to examine the state of our hearts, to discern whether we are genuinely drawn to glorify God or if we resist His word, risking rebellion against Him. True worship stems from a heart of faith that recognizes Christ's lordship over our lives and submits to His loving care. Let us, therefore, embrace this privilege and responsibility wholeheartedly, with joy and gratitude, for it is the only way that we can truly experience the fullness of God's love and grace.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions

1. Reflecting on Psalm 95:1-3, what does true worship look like, and how can you more fully engage your heart in worshipping God?
2. Considering the choice between glorifying God through Jesus Christ or hardening our hearts, what practical steps can you take to ensure your heart remains open and responsive to God's Word?

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts filled with gratitude and mouths ready to sing Your praises. You are our great God, King above all gods, Creator of the universe, and our trustworthy Savior. Help us to truly hear Your voice in the reading and preaching of Your Word, engaging our hearts fully in worship. Guide us away from the temptation to harden our hearts and lead us into a deeper faith in Christ instead. May we always choose to glorify You through Jesus Christ, avoiding the path of rebellion and entering into Your promised rest. Teach us to live each day in worshipful response to Your grace under the care of our Good Shepherd, Jesus. In His name, we pray, Amen.

## Tuesday: God's Majesty and Christ's Humility

Read: Psalm 95:4-5

### Devotional:

The words in Psalm 95:4-5 describe the immense power and splendor of God, who created the sea and the dry land and holds the depths of the earth and mountain peaks in His hands. This verse is a perfect background to reflect on the great humility and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He created the world but chose to limit Himself within the boundaries of human flesh. He embraced suffering and death, even on the cross, out of love for us. The life of Jesus serves as a powerful example of God's redemptive plan for humanity. It urges us to consider the weight of such love and the response it demands from us. We are called to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Just as Jesus laid down His life for us, we are called to lay down our lives for Him and carry our crosses every day. The path of righteousness is often riddled with trials and suffering, but it is through these adversities that our faith is

strengthened and our spirits are fortified. Let us follow the example of Jesus and live a life of surrender and obedience.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. Reflecting on the humility and sacrifice of Jesus, how does this influence your understanding of what it means to live a life of worship and surrender to God?
2. How does the example of Jesus' silent endurance in the face of suffering inspire you to deal with your own trials and adversities? What does it teach you about the nature of godly suffering and victory in Christ?

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of Your majesty and power, yet we are humbled by the depth of Your love, demonstrated through the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank You for the gift of salvation, which compels us to respond in worship and surrender. Teach us to embrace Christ's humility and obedience, bear our crosses with grace, and offer our lives as a living sacrifice to You. Help us to find strength in the midst of our struggles, knowing that our momentary trials are producing for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. May we, like the faithful before us, persevere in faith, contending for the crown of righteousness which You promise to all who love You. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

## Wednesday: Recognizing Our Dependence on God

Read: Psalm 95:6

### Devotional:

Psalm 95:6 invites us to worship God with humility, recognizing that He is the one who created us and not the other way around. This verse is a powerful reminder that we depend on God not only for our creation but also for our continued existence and salvation. The Holy Spirit urges us to acknowledge that God has been intimately involved in our creation from the beginning, even before we had the capacity to worship Him. This recognition should lead us to deep humility and gratitude, realizing that our very existence is a testament to God's sovereignty and care.

Worshiping and humbling ourselves before God is a recognition of our rightful place in relation to Him. It is a response to His unwavering commitment to us, evidenced by the fact that He continues to engage with and care for us. This devotional stance shifts our perspective from self-reliance to God-dependence, acknowledging that true restoration and salvation can only come from the One who created us. As we worship, we affirm God's goodness in making us and His graciousness in saving us, recognizing that our greatest achievements are but reflections of His work in us.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. Reflecting on Psalm 95:6 and the idea that God created us and knows us intimately, how does this impact your view of worship and your relationship with God?
2. Considering the assurance that God listens to and cares for those He made, how might this truth influence your approach to prayer, especially in times of need or despair?

## Prayer

Gracious God, our Creator and Sustainer, we come before You in humility, acknowledging that it is You who made us, and not we ourselves. Before we knew You, You knew us, forming us with purpose and intention. We worship and kneel before You, recognizing Your sovereignty over our lives and the universe. Thank You for not abandoning us but continually caring for and guiding us. Help us to always remember our dependence on You for everything. In times of health, may we thank You; in times of sickness, may we run to You for healing. Teach us to submit ourselves to You fully, understanding that only You can renew and save us. Lead us in worship that is true and filled with gratitude for the incredible gift of creation and salvation. In the name of Jesus, who made the ultimate sacrifice for us, we pray. Amen.

## Thursday: The Peril of Procrastination

Read: Psalm 95:7–9

### Devotional:

The Scriptures warn us to listen to God's voice and respond immediately to His call. This is a recurring theme throughout God's Word, emphasizing the importance of repentance and warning us about the dangers of hardening our hearts. The Psalmist advises us not to delay our return to God and compares it to the foolishness of neglecting our physical health. Just like we would seek immediate help for a physical ailment, we should also hasten to repent of our sins and seek spiritual healing. This comparison reminds us that putting off our reconciliation with God could lead to facing His sudden justice without the grace of forgiveness.

This passage emphasizes that we must respond immediately to God's call to repentance. It warns us that delaying our return to God is not only unwise but also dangerous. The Bible warns us that God's wrath can come unexpectedly, which is why we need to turn to Him as soon as possible. The passage also emphasizes the importance of supporting each other in our faith journey. Our journey towards God is not a solitary one but is shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Discussion and Reflection Questions

1. Reflecting on Psalm 95:7-9 and the comparison to physical health, why do you think immediate repentance is so crucial in our relationship with God?

2. How does the concept of "Today" in this passage challenge the way you think about procrastination in your spiritual life?

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts, eager to respond to Your call. Help us to recognize the urgency of repentance, reminding us that just as we seek immediate healing for our physical ailments, we should also seek swift reconciliation with You for the health of our souls. Forgive us for the times we have delayed turning back to You, mistakenly taking Your mercy for granted. Grant us the wisdom to understand the gravity of our sins and the courage to forsake them without delay. May we encourage one another daily, fostering a community of faith that supports each other in pursuing a heartfelt and immediate response to Your loving invitation. Keep our hearts soft and receptive to Your voice, so that we may never find ourselves hardened by the deceit of sin. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

## Friday: From Horeb to Calvary

Read: Exodus 17:1-7

### Devotional:

Exodus 17:1-7 recounts the story of God's provision for the Israelites in the wilderness, where He miraculously provided water from a rock at Horeb. This moment is a powerful testament to God's ability to provide for His people in their time of need, reflecting His grace and mercy. This narrative serves as a precursor to the ultimate act of provision and grace through Jesus Christ. Just as the Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to bring forth water for the Israelites, so too did the Father allow His wrath to fall upon Christ on the cross. The striking of the rock in Exodus parallels the crucifixion of Christ, from which flowed the living water of the Holy Spirit, made available to all who believe.

This divine provision of water in the desert and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from Christ's sacrifice invite us to ponder the depths of God's grace. The waters from the rock were a physical sustenance for the Israelites, a testament to God's immediate care and presence. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is our spiritual sustenance, offering eternal life, guidance, and comfort to all believers. The act of God providing for the Israelites and the sacrificial love demonstrated through Christ's death are both expressions of the same divine grace, underscoring the lengths to which God will go to provide for His children. We are invited to drink deeply from these streams of life, recognizing the profound sacrifice that made them possible.

### Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. How does the story of God providing water from the rock in Exodus 17:1-7 enhance your understanding of Christ's sacrifice and the provision of the Holy Spirit?
2. Reflecting on the necessity of judgment falling on Christ for us to receive the Holy Spirit, how does this

shape your appreciation for the gift of eternal life and guidance?

3. In what ways can you more fully "drink deeply" of the streams of life offered through the Holy Spirit in your daily walk with God?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of Your grace and provision, marveling at how You have sustained Your people throughout history and how You ultimately provided for our deepest need through the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank You for the living water that flowed from Christ's side, the Holy Spirit, who now lives in us, guiding, comforting, and sustaining us. Help us to never take for granted this precious gift, to drink deeply of the streams of life You have made available to us. Teach us to rely on Your Spirit in every circumstance, recognizing our constant need for Your presence and provision. May our lives reflect our gratitude for Your sacrificial love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

## Saturday: Divine Patience and the Quest for Eternal Rest

Read: Psalm 95:10-11

### Devotional:

Psalm 95:10-11 speaks to a moment of reflection on the history of God's people, highlighting God's grace and patience amidst their repeated failures and rebellions. The passage recounts the extraordinary miracles that underscored God's presence and power and the provision God offered to the Israelites during their wilderness journey. The cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, the walls of Jericho falling at the sound of trumpets, and the heavenly manna were all demonstrations of God's care and provision. Despite these signs, the people's hearts often strayed, leading to God's declaration that they would not enter His rest. This narrative serves as a poignant reminder of the consequences of disregarding God's ways and the importance of aligning our hearts with Him.

The concept of rest mentioned in these verses transcends physical rest; it signifies a spiritual state of peace and fulfillment found in God's presence, a rest promised to those who faithfully follow Him. This rest is portrayed as a reward for the just, an eternal Sabbath where the soul finds its ultimate repose in God, free from the burdens and distractions of the world. It beckons us to set our hearts and minds on things above, where true rest and contentment are found, reminding us that our ultimate home and rest are not of this world but with God.

### Discussion and Reflection Questions:

1. Reflecting on the Israelites' experiences and God's miraculous provisions, how does this narrative influence your understanding of God's patience and grace in your own life?
2. Considering the spiritual rest described in these verses, how does this concept of rest shape your perspective on your spiritual journey and the ultimate goal of union with God?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of Your patience, grace, and the marvelous works You performed for Your people throughout history. Teach us to remember and cherish Your provisions in our lives, recognizing the signs of Your presence and guidance. Help us to remain faithful to Your ways, so we may enter into the rest You have promised to Your faithful servants. Guide our hearts to yearn for the eternal Sabbath, setting our minds on heavenly things, where true peace and rest are found. Grant us the grace to live lives that reflect our citizenship in heaven, eagerly anticipating the rest that awaits us in Your presence. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.